

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A messaging service method comprising:
 - receiving from a mobile client device, ~~identification~~ selection of a first recipient ~~authorized~~ eligible to receive location information of a user of the mobile client device;
 - receiving from the mobile client device, a current location of the user;
 - selecting the first recipient to receive the user's current location, based at least in part on an identity of the user and the selection of the first recipient provided by the mobile client device, and independent of a current communication relationship between the first recipient and the messaging service; and
 - ~~transmitting the user's current location to the selected first recipient, including establishing a communication connection~~ from the messaging server to the first recipient, if the first recipient is not in current communication with the messaging service.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises accumulating received locations of the user to form an activity log of the user.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the method further comprises receiving from the mobile client device indication that said first recipient is ~~also~~ authorized to receive the activity log, and ~~said transmitting includes transmitting said activity log to said first recipient.~~
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the activity log of the user further comprises a duration of time at each of the locations visited by the user.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises accessing a navigation web site to obtain map related information, and ~~said transmitting further comprises including said obtained map related information to said first recipient.~~

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises receiving a request from a second recipient to receive location information of the user, verifying ~~eligibility~~ authorization of for the second recipient to receive location information of the user, and transmitting location information of the user to the second recipient, if the second recipient is verified to be authorized ~~eligible~~ to receive location information of the user.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises receiving from the mobile client device, the identity of the user.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises receiving from the mobile client device an ~~eligibility~~ authorization duration ~~of for~~ the first recipient, and said selecting comprises determining whether the first recipient remains authorized ~~eligible~~ to receive location information of the user.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A portable electronic apparatus comprising:
a storage medium having stored therein a plurality of instructions that are machine executable, wherein the instructions are adapted to enable the portable electronic apparatus to ~~submit~~select~~an identification of a first recipient~~
authorized ~~eligible~~ to receive location information of a user of the portable electronic apparatus to a messaging service, the first recipient being remotely disposed from the apparatus and the messaging service, to submit a current location of the user to the messaging service on behalf of the user, to enable the messaging service to select the first recipient based at least in part on the identity of the user and the selection of the first recipient provided by the mobile client device and independent of a current communication relationship between the first recipient and the messaging service, and to transmit the user's current location ~~to the selected first recipient~~; and

a processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the instructions.

15. (Previously Presented) The portable electronic apparatus of claim 14, wherein the instructions are further adapted to accumulate locations of the user to form an activity log of the user, and submit the activity log to the messaging service.

16. (Previously Presented) The portable electronic apparatus of claim 14, wherein the instructions are further adapted to sense one or more bio-metric data of the user, and perform said submission of a current location of the user, based at least in part on the sensed one or more bio-metric data of the user.

17. (Previously Presented) The portable electronic apparatus of claim 16, wherein the instructions are further adapted to access a global positioning system (GPS) to determine a current location of the user.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) The portable electronic apparatus of claim 14, wherein the portable electronic apparatus further comprises a function button, and the instructions are further adapted to perform said submission, in response to a singular user action, selecting the function button.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) The portable electronic apparatus of claim 14, wherein the instructions are further adapted to submit an ~~eligibility~~ authorization period ~~duration for~~ the first recipient.

22. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
a storage medium having stored therein a plurality of instructions to receive from a mobile client device, a ~~submission of~~ selection ~~an identity~~ of a first recipient ~~eligible to receive location information of user of the mobile client device, and a submission of a current location of the user, to select the first recipient to receive the user's current location, based at least in part on the identity of the user~~ and the selection of the first recipient provided by the mobile client device and independent of a current communication relationship or lack of a current communication relationship between the apparatus and the first recipient, and to transmit the user's current location ~~to the selected first recipient;~~ and

a processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the instructions.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the instructions are further adapted to accumulate submitted locations of the user to form an activity log of the user.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the instructions are further adapted to receive from the mobile client device, an ~~eligibility~~ authorization duration for the first recipient, within which the first recipient is ~~authorized~~eligible to receive the location information of the user of the mobile client device.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the instructions are further adapted to access a navigation web site to obtain map related information to include the map related information with said current location of the user.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the instructions are further adapted to receive a request from a second recipient for the current location information of the user, determine ~~eligibility~~ authorization of the second recipient, and transmit the user's current location to the second recipient, if the second recipient is determined to be ~~eligible~~ authorized to receive the current location information of the user.

29. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the first recipient has an ~~eligibility~~ authorization duration, and the instructions are adapted to further take into consideration the first recipients' ~~eligibility~~ authorization duration when performing said selection of the first recipient.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the instructions are further adapted to receive from the mobile client device, an identity of the selected first recipient.

31. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein establishing a communication connection to the first recipient further comprises transmitting the user's current location to the first recipient.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein at least one of said receiving comprises receiving from the mobile client device via a wireless communication connection, or said transmitting comprises transmitting to the first recipient via a wireless communication connection.

33. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein establishing a communication connection to the first recipient further comprises rendering current location information received retrievable by the authorized first recipient.

34. (New) A program product comprising a plurality of programming instructions adapted to program an apparatus to enable the apparatus to practice a method as set forth in claim 1.

35. (New) A storage medium comprising a plurality of programming instructions adapted to program an apparatus to enable the apparatus to practice a method as set forth in claim 1.

36. (New) A system comprising:
a communication interface;
a storage element;
a processor coupled to the communication interface and the storage element; and
a message module operated by the processor to practice on the system a method as set forth in claim 1.